

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9454

INFO AMCONSUL CALGARY VIA POUCH

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER VIA POUCH

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1485

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJ: CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS MODIFIES PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY
PIPELINE ROUTE

1. AT APRIL 12 OPENING OF NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD HEARING ON
NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE APPLICATIONS, CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE
LTD. ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAS MODIFIED ITS PROPOSAL BY DROPPING
PLANS TO BUILD A NEW 170-MILE PIPELINE THROUGH B.C. TO THE U.S.
BORDER AND INSTEAD WILL USE EXPANDED FACILITIES OF EXISTING
ALBERTA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE TO DELIVER NORTHERN GAS TO U.S.
CUSTOMERS.

2. CAGPL PRESIDENT HORTE, IN REPORTED INTERVIEW, SAID CHANGE
IN PLANS BECAME POSSIBLE WHEN TWO CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANIES
FINALLY AGREED TO SHARE PIPELINE FACILITIES IN LIEU OF RE-
QUIRING A TOTALLY NEW PIPELINE. HORTE INDICATED THE FINANCIAL
SAVING WOULD BE "SUBSTANTIAL".

3. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT, COMPETITOR FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES
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CHARGED THAT CAGPL HAD "ABANDONED ONE OF ITS MOST

CHERISHED PRINCIPLES", I.E., BUILDING ONE PIPELINE
THROUGH CANADA WITH A SINGLE OWNER.

4. IN OTHER NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENT, GAZ METROPOLITAN
OF MONTREAL ABANDONED ITS PREVIOUS ROLE AS NEUTRAL
INTERVENOR IN HEARING AND DECIDED TO SUPPORT CAGPL
PROJECT AS THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND MOST LIKELY TO BE
REALIZED PROJECT FOR DELIVERING ARCTIC GAS TO CANADIAN
MARKETS.
LEARY

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NNN

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